GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2719
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
DECREASING POPULATION OF TIGERS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conservationists have warned against the decreasing tiger population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 'Project Tiger', launched by the Central Government has proved completely ineffective in controlling the fall in population of tigers in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any new strategy has been made to protect the tigers in the country with the help of foreign countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) This Ministry is aware of the concerns expressed from several quarters, including conservationists, regarding decrease in tiger population.

(c) & (d) No Sir. Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on a course of recovery. Recent tiger estimation figures relating to four States (Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) as per the refined methodology endorsed by the Tiger Task Force, indicate a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. However, the tiger population in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States do not show a significant change.

(e) & (f) The Government of India has been taken several initiatives to reinforce tiger conservation in the country, as indicated in Annexure-I, which interalia include the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the National Board for Wildlife. Further, India, along with the United States of America and United Kingdom has joined the 'Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking', which is a global coalition of governments and international business and conservation organizations working together to support each others efforts to end the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.